



TIP TOP COMICS

Tip Top Comics #1 by United Feature Syndicate debuted with a cover date of April 1936, making this Tarzan's first comic book appearance and is accordingly valuable. The only competitor to this title would be the *Tarzan to Color* book by Saalfield. *Tip Top* was an anthology book that began with *Tarzan* as a lead feature and included a massive number of different strips from the newspapers. The first issue advertises "Over 100 Funnies." Other than *Tarzan* and *Li'l Abner*, most of these strips are forgotten



today. After a long time period between the first and second issues, *Tip Top* began a monthly schedule except for some lapses during the later part of 1933 and nothing being published for the first five months of 1934.

The first three *Tip Top* covers were by Mo Leff, with the first two being anthology covers. Issue #1 shows a multitude of characters from different strips gathered around as Tarzan enters a boxing ring for a match with Li'l Abner. Mo Leff had worked on *Li'l Abner* as an assistant before moving on to illustrate *Joe Palooka* comics for Ham

Tip Top Comics



Fischer. Leff's cover for #2 in June 1936 shows Tarzan holding five feature stars aloft on his hands and head, while others gather around.

Issue #3 in July 1936 by Mo Leff was the first in

a series of Tarzan solo covers that would feature a mixture of original art and reprint panels from the newspaper strips. Foster's art and colors were in many cases left intact, while in others changes were made -- some being minor while others were major. Some of those changes look very much like the work of Mo Leff, but there is no way to confirm this.

#9 (January 1937) reprints detail from a Hal Foster Sunday panel from March 8, 1936 with some color changes.



#11 (March 1937) reprints Rex Maxon.



#13 (May 1937) reprints a Hal Foster Sunday panel from December 10, 1933, with only minor color changes. With this issue the sequence of Hal Foster's Sunday pages jumps forward several months in continuity.



#16 (August 1937) reprints a Hal Foster Sunday panel from January 1, 1933, with added blue stripes in the background and tan highlights on the brows of the apes following Tarzan into battle being the only color changes.



#18 October 1937 reprints a 1929 Hal Foster daily panel with only minor alterations.



#20 (December 1937) showed Tarzan only as Christmas wreath encircled headshot by an unidentified artist.

#21 (January 1938) was by an unidentified artist.



#24 (April 1938) was a reworking of a 1929 Hal Foster daily panel -- changing his image to lose the bracelets, headband and reducing his over the shoulder leopard skin to trousers only.



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#27 (July 1938) was by Rex Maxon.



#30 (October 1938)

was a composite cover.

The lion in the foreground is detail

from a

panel of

Burne

Hogarth's

June 5,

1938

Sunday page, which itself is a reworking of a lion from from Hal Foster's August 30, 1936, Sunday page.

#32 (December 1938) featured an original cover by Paul F. Berdanier, who in 1930 illustrated the wraparound book cover and frontispiece for



the Metropolitan first edition of Burroughs'

Tanar of Pellucidar.

Berdanier had been

doing considerable

amounts of interior

work for

Tip Top

with a

pair of

half-

page

interior

features, "How it Began" and

"Twice Told Tales," both of

which offered history lessons.

In issue #4 "How it Began"

bracketed the Tarzan section

with the origins of the "Titles of

Nobility" and "The Wedding

Cake."



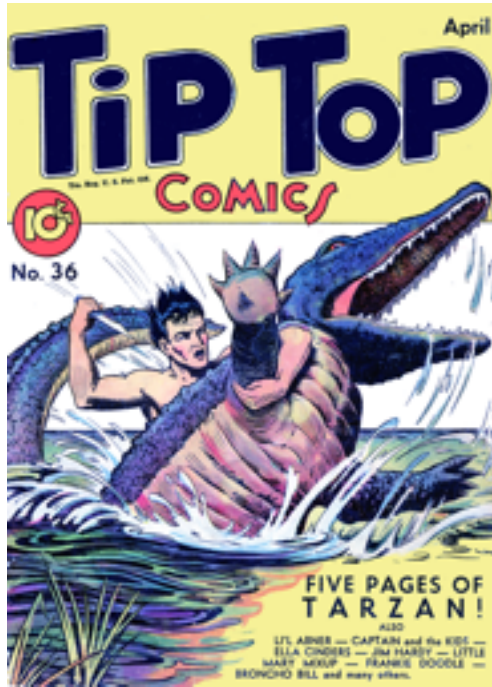


#33 (January 1939) was another original cover by Paul F. Berdanier.

#34 (February 1939 -- page 29) concluded Paul F. Bernadier's three-consecutive cover run, but he would do many more.

#39 (July 1939) was by Paul F. Bernadier.





#36 (April 1939) was a major reworking of a panel from Hal Foster's June 17, 1934 Sunday page.



#37 (May 1939) was by Paul F. Bernadier.



For sale exclusively at the 1939 Worlds Fair, 12 issue runs were trimmed and bound into hardcovers. Volume 3 featured issues #25 through #36 and a front cover with Maxon Tarzan art from a promotional set of posters.





#41 (September 1939 -- page 32) was by Paul F. Bernadier. This is a key issue because it reprints the very first *Tarzan* Sunday Page by Hal Foster the first 7 Sunday pages by Rex Maxon starting from March 15, 1931, giving readers the very first 8 *Tarzan* Sunday pages. This is the only mass market U.S. reprinting for 7 of these Maxon pages.

#43 (November 1939 -- page 33) was by Paul F. Bernadier.

#45 (January 1940 -- page 34) was by Paul F. Bernadier.

#47 (March 1940 -- page 35) reprinted a panel from Hal Foster's September 23, 1934, Sunday Page, with a new background added.



No. 43

November

TIP TOP

COMICS

TM. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



Eight Pages of
TARZAN!

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE;

**CAPTAIN and the KIDS — LI'L ABNER — JIM HARDY — FRANKIE DOODLE — ELLA CINDERS
— STRANGE AS IT SEEMS — BRONCHO BILL — FOUR ACES — JOE JINKS — FRITZI RITZ
and many more of your favorites.**

No. 45

January

TIP TOP

COMICS

Trm. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.



Printed in the U. S. A.

With Eight Pages of TARZAN — CAPTAIN and the KIDS — LI'L ABNER — JIM HARDY —
STRANGE AS IT SEEMS — ABBIE an' SLATS — ELLA CINDERS — FRANKIE DOODLE — JOE
JINKS — FOUR ACES — FRITZI RITZ — and many other favorites!



With Eight Pages of TARZAN — CAPTAIN and the KIDS — LI'L ABNER — JIM HARDY —
FOUR ACES — STRANGE AS IT SEEMS — BRONCHO BILL — ELLA CINDERS — FRANKIE
DOODLE — FRITZI RITZ — JASPER — JOE JINKS — Your Favorites in Full Color!

#50 (June 1940) was the final cover by Paul F. Bernadier.

#52 (August 1940 -- page 37) was based on a Hal Foster panel from the April 10, 1932, Sunday strip. This one had extensive changes made, including reworking Tarzan's face and the addition of the underwater background with a lot of extra color, including the stream of blood flowing from the doomed shark's mouth.

While this was the final *Tarzan* cover for *Tip Top*, the feature continued through June 1941 issue #62, and the following month moved over to *Sparkler Comics* until returning for one last swing from #171 (November-

December 1951) through #188 (September-October 1951). These later issues featured Bob Lubbers' dailies converted to color that sometimes clashed with the black & white screens used for gray-tones.

Ironically, *Tarzan's* last four *Tip Top* appearances in issues #185 through #188 are some of the most expensive *Tip Top* comics and their prices are still rising -- but not because of the apeman. These covers featured another newspaper strip making its comics book debut -- "*Peanuts*" by Charles M. Schultz -- and they sell for hundreds of dollars in even lower grade condition.

While only the earliest issues of *Tip Top* Comics are priced above the *Peanuts* range, all of the *Tarzan* covers are highly valuable because of continued collector demand.

